

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIASUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1953.

GENERAL. Particulars for the year ended March 1953, possibly subject to slight revision, are shown in the following paragraphs with those for 1952 in parentheses. It will be seen that sheep flocks have increased by 570,106 and cattle herds by 45,344 (a grazing equivalent of about 320,000 sheep), the totals being records in both instances. The increase in sheep of 570,106 compares with the increase of 1,303,575 the previous year. Although there was a record lambing, there were greatly increased slaughterings, lesser numbers imported from other States and greater numbers exported to other States. The increase in cattle was due to the greater number of calves, a greater net gain from interstate movements and decreased slaughterings. Since 1946-47 the number of sheep has increased from 7,958,618 to 12,040,194 and cattle from 423,980 to 482,812. These facts, together with increased acreages of barley for grain from 502,005 to 936,618 and oats from 252,325 to 369,944, are in contrast to the decreased acreage for wheat from 2,518,948 to 1,543,137.

SHEEP. 12,040,194 (11,470,088) an increase of 570,106 on the previous year and of 5,253,656 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946, and 1,669,629 more than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. 3,079,046 (3,037,154) wethers; 155,675 (147,651) rams, 2,569,355 (2,354,729) lambs, 5,484,726 (5,266,224) breeding and 751,392 (664,330) other ewes were recorded.

BREEDS OF SHEEP. Particulars of breeds of sheep are collected only every third year. 1953 figures compared with 1950 are:- Merino 10,130,756 (7,717,943), Corriedale 701,229 (549,127), Romney Marsh 39,483 (30,881), Polwarth 24,025 (16,262), Dorset Horn 23,304 (20,313), Leicester Border 11,230 (11,587), Suffolk 7,008 (5,611), Southdown 4,689 (3,815), Other and unspecified pure breeds 8,111 (55,143), Merino Comeback 212,561 (167,390) and Crossbred 877,798 (898,954).

LAMBING 1953. 5,310,086 (5,146,118) ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1953 (1952), 4,239,106 (4,061,633) to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,070,980 (1,084,485) to rams of other breeds.

WOOL CLIP. Since final figures are not yet available, a separate statement will be issued on this subject.

CATTLE. All kinds 482,812 (437,468) increase 45,344. The previous record number was 464,141 in 1950. Dairying cows 183,597 (176,455) were classified as follows - in milk 101,335 (103,658) dry 55,086 (48,534) and springing heifers 27,176 (24,263). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 18,681 (15,903) dairy calves 41,684 (36,718) dairy bulls 8,351 (7,499) beef cows and heifers 111,813 (96,561) beef calves 50,659 (41,795) beef bulls 4,589 (4,204) and other beef cattle 63,438 (58,333). Total dairying cattle 252,313 (236,575) beef cattle 230,499 (200,893). Increases are noted for both dairy and beef calves. In fact there are increases under each heading, except dairy cows actually in milk.

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June, 1953 are as follows: Butter 17,150,000 (18,213,439) lbs., cheese 23,500,000 (23,776,697) lbs. and Bacon and Ham 6,850,000 (6,649,611) lbs. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 86,300,000 (86,500,000) gallons compared with the record of 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been over 500 gallons.

LAMBING 1952. 4,987,119 (4,543,285) ewes were mated and 3,809,970 (3,202,656) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 76.40 (70.49). The previous record number of lambs marked was 3,322,810 in 1943 and the record percentage was 78.68 in 1917.

HORSES. 57,367 (63,285) of which foals were 2,574 (3,029) draught 22,898 (28,344) and other 31,895 (31,912). The number of horses is only about 29% of the number (200,870) in 1936, and is the lowest number since 1862. The maximum number was 283,641 in 1913.

PIGS. 58,796 (64,903) of which there were 1,732 (1,873) boars, 8,981 (9,832) breeding sows, all other 48,083 (53,198). The number of pigs is the lowest since 1897. The maximum number was 190,068 in 1940.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 3,283,618 (3,102,666) sheep, 167,208 (149,194) cattle and 18,513 (18,737) horses while inside there were 8,756,576 (8,367,422) sheep, 315,604 (288,274) cattle and 38,854 (44,548) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line. The percentages outside for 1953 were sheep 27.27 (27.05) cattle 34.63 (34.10) horses 32.27 (29.61).

SLAUGHTERINGS. 1952 (1951) were sheep 1,223,105 (919,026), lambs 1,129,660 (627,482), cattle and calves 186,685 (215,665) and pigs 113,734 (113,604). For the first six months of 1953 (1952) there were sheep 900,000 (560,000), lambs 335,000 (300,000), cattle 97,500 (99,000) and pigs 53,000 (51,000).

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 502,711 (493,306), cattle 15,574 (18,020) horses 2,205 (2,656) and pigs 3,199 (3,752).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31st 1953 COMPARED WITH MARCH 31st 1952.

DIVISION	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES	PIGS
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1953
Central	2,622,188	2,509,042	145,840	136,611	17,179	28,326
Lower North	1,898,227	1,845,556	31,234	29,211	6,979	12,321
Upper North	1,172,087	1,071,209	17,360	16,609	4,408	2,416
South Eastern	2,270,264	2,168,426	112,301	100,121	6,725	3,181
Western	2,018,667	1,861,514	14,431	13,375	7,626	6,294
Murray Mallee	1,092,640	1,077,484	24,621	21,817	5,179	6,258
Total Counties	11,074,073	10,533,231	345,787	317,744	48,096	58,796
Outside Counties	966,121	936,857	137,025	119,724	9,271	-
Total State	12,040,194	11,470,088	482,812	437,468	57,367	58,796
Increase	570,106	1,303,575	45,344	4,902	-5,918	-6,107

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Statistical Office,  
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13th August, 1953.